

I am committed to promoting the time-honored American ideals that have helped define our national character and brought our nation through times of great challenge. These values include recognizing our nation's spiritual heritage, promoting healthy marriages and intact families, advancing a culture of life, and encouraging personal responsibility and a can-do spirit. I believe our nation's commitment to these bedrock American values will remain critical to our future strength and prosperity.

Our Founding Fathers understood the importance of traditional values. The following is a small selection of their notable observations about them:*

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

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"...Let us with caution indulge the supposition, that morality can be maintained without religion...Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that National morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

George Washington, Farewell Address, September 19, 1796

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“Your love of liberty—your respect for the laws—your habits of industry—and your practice of the moral and religious obligations, are the strongest claims to national and individual happiness.”

George Washington, letter to the Residents of Boston, October 27, 1789

“The foundation of national morality must be laid in private families...”

John Adams, diary, June 2, 1778

*All quotes taken from *The Founders Almanac: A Practical Guide to the Notable Events, Greatest Leaders & Most Eloquent Words of the American Founding* ;
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